

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-13, 15-25, 28-37, and 39-48 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 13, 25, and 37 have been amended. The amendments do not add new matter and find support throughout the specification and claims. In particular, the amendments are supported in the specification at least at page 5, lines 1-2, and page 29, line 13 to page 30, line 7. Additionally, it is respectfully submitted that the amendments do not require additional search, simplify issues for appeal, and/or place the claims in condition for allowance. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the amendments be entered. In view of the amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-13, 15-25, 28-37, and 39-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 5,956,021 to Kubota et al. (hereinafter Kubota), in view of United States Patent No. 6,801,659 to O'Dell (hereinafter O'Dell). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 1 relates to an information entry method that is computer-executable. The method of amended claim 1 includes, among other things, displaying each of a plurality of groups, which respectively contains *a plurality of information grouped according to a predetermined rule, so that each information contained in each group is displayed*, and displaying a group selected in the group selection mode so as to be distinguishable from other groups. The method of claim 1 also includes displaying an information selected from the group in the information selection mode so as to be distinguishable from other information. In the method of claim 1, each group is displayed so that a predetermined information contained therein is displayed in an enlarged manner as compared with the other information.

The Office Action asserts that Kubota discloses the feature of “displaying each of a plurality of groups, which respectively contains a plurality of information grouped according to a predetermined rule, so that each information contained in each group is recognizable” at col. 4, lines 14-22. (Office Action; page 13, lines 15-22). The Examiner apparently recognizes that Kubota does not disclose displaying all of the elements of each respective group of the plurality of groups, but apparently suggests that displaying a representative one of a group makes the entire group recognizable to one fluent in a foreign language. (Office Action; page 14, lines 1-4).

However, the Office Action’s reading of claim 1 apparently reads the limitation of recognizability out of the claim and installs it in a hypothetical individual having the ability to recognize a group of items if a member of the group is displayed. The Examiner apparently combines the cited references with a third process – the process being performed in a linguistically talented person. However, this combination is made without any citation to any additional reference in support of this feature. Therefore, this reading of the claim is improper, since Kubota does not disclose or suggest this feature.

However, in the interest of expediting prosecution, Applicants have amended the claims to replace “recognizable” with “displayed”. It is respectfully submitted that neither of Kubota nor O’Dell discloses or suggests displaying each of a plurality of groups, which respectively contains a plurality of information grouped according to a predetermined rule, *so that each information contained in each group is displayed*, as recited in amended claim 1. The Office Action asserts that Kubota discloses the feature of the unamended claim in the following section:

[a]ll of the keys may be divided into at least one group of related keys, with the initial display device *displaying only a representative key for each group of related keys*, and the display change device may change the keys so that a row of other keys which have been related to the provisionally selected key is adjacent to the provisionally selected key.

The operator can select a desired key from a group of related keys by dragging the pen outside the representative key.

(Kubota; col. 4, lines 1-22; emphasis added). As is clearly shown in the emphasized section, Kubota apparently discloses displaying only *a representative key* of each group of related keys. Therefore, neither Kubota nor O'Dell discloses or suggests the feature of claim 1 of displaying each of a plurality of groups so that each information contained in each group is displayed, and therefore claim 1 is allowable over the combination of the references.

Claims 3-12 depend from claim 1 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1 is allowable.

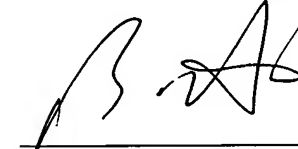
Independent claims 13, 25, and 37 have been amended in the same manner as claim 1 and include similar features. Therefore, these claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 15-24 depend from claim 13; claims 28-36 depend from claim 25; and claims 39-48 depend from claim 37. Therefore these claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as their respective base claims are allowable.

However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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